



Wenatchee Valley 3617 Post & Auxiliary News

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March - April 2020

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Commander's Letter

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2020. I hope Winter has treated you well, and are as excited as I am for the rapid approach of Spring!

Being springtime, we're just starting some renovation projects at the post. Fresh paint in the post meeting room has brightened the atmosphere along with some reorganization of mementoes and pictures on the walls. I'm excited to announce that we're finally obtaining a couple of locking curio cabinets to display the donated military items the post has collected over the years. We'll also be installing a receptacle for damaged and worn out flags. It'll be mounted outside and available for anyone to deposit their old flags 24 hours a day. We're also planning to replace several broken outdoor light fixtures and upgrade everything to a more efficient LED lighting. A long awaited VFW Post sign will also be installed on the front of the building at some point during this upgrade. Whether your handy with a hammer or paintbrush, or not, please stop by the post to check out our new look in the weeks to come. Work and painting parties will be posted on our webpage and Facebook (FB)

Our adopted unit, the 53rd EOD Company of Yakima Training Center, returned from a 6-month deployment to Afghanistan a few weeks ago. Everyone made it home safe to the great relief of their families. On March 6, we've be invited to their change of command ceremony as Captain Sam Scanlon leaves for a new assignment on the East Coast. We'll also be deploying our VFW & Auxiliary team to Yakima this summer to provide a picnic to the entire unit. Stay tuned for a date.....

Speaking of picnics, our annual VFW picnic is something special this year. In an effort to join forces to provide the best support and comradery amongst our post and the American Legion Post 10, Legion Commander Dick Winn and myself have joined our organizations together to put on an epic picnic! Picnic will be on Saturday, July 11, at Walla Walla Point Park at Shelter 1. We're planning on an expanded menu besides burgers and hot dogs, but we'll have to wait until the joint planning committee makes

(Continued on page 2)

their decisions first. We'll include all the updates in future newsletters as we get them. We're striving to make this a family event with fun stuff to do for all ages, so get the kids and grandkids invited.

Apple Blossom Festival is only 60 days away and we're starting to get everything organized to support our 9th annual Fallen Heroes Banners (see page 7). The Grand Parade is on May 2 this year with the Classy Chassis happening the day before. If you're interested in carrying a banner this year of a fallen Hero, the post will have information posted on our website and FB pages.

It may be 2 more years until 2022, but our VFW Post Centennial Committee is forming up in the next few weeks. With the Wenatchee Post 902 folding a few years ago, its membership was transferred to our post. Along with those members came its charter and date of initial organization which was March 29th, 1922. Our post will be 100 years old in the very near future and we need to start planning for the event now. We have a professional event planner coming to talk to our Centennial Committee this week about everything associated with an event of this caliber. If you're interested in helping with planning this event, check us out on your computer or smartphone.

(Continued on page 3)

March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Bonaventure 10am	3 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	4	5 Breakfast @ Country Inn 9am	6 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am DCVAB 10:30am Bingo 5:30pm	7
8 Daylight Savings <i>Spring Forward</i>	9	10 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	11	12	13 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	14
15 Corned Beef Dinner 3pm	16	17 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am St. Paddy's Day	18 Dinner 6pm Post & Aux Mtgs 7pm	19 Pybus Job & Resource Fair 3-6pm	20 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	21 Auxiliary Kids' Coloring Day @ 11am - Wenatchee Mall
22	23	24 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	25	26	27 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	28
29 Vietnam Veteran's Day	30	31 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am				

In closing, I'd like everyone to take note that we now have a 6th military service, the United States Space Force. The National Defense Authorization Act for 2020, signed by the president last December, created the first new independent branch of the U.S. Armed Forces since September 1947 with the creation of the Air Force. Locally for us, this means we'll be adding the Space Force Emblem to our wall and a US Space Force flag to our honor & color guard details. As a former member of the 2nd Space Wing, U.S. Space Command, working as a FSOC crew member in the DMSF Program from 1982 to 1990, I have mixed feelings on this new separate service. Space Command, and its earlier predecessors, have been quietly and faithfully exploiting this space arena for over 60 years, with robust budgets I might add. Until I see the separate budget and functional lines of responsibility this new service will have, I'm going to reserve my final judgement on the creation of this new branch of the military.

"Supra et Ultra"

Commander Brad Pieratt

April

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Breakfast @ Country Inn 9am	3 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am DCVAB 10:30am Bingo 5:30pm	4 Family Pancake Breakfast 9am
5	6 Bonaventure 10am	7 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	8	9	10 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	11
12 Easter	13	14 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	15 Dinner 6pm Post & Aux Mtgs 7pm	16	17 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	18 Potluck noon Dist 7 Meetings 1pm
19	20	21 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	22	23	24 Coffee & Donuts 9:30am Bingo 5:30pm	25 Apple Blossom Kids' Parade
26	27	28 Chair Yoga w/ Stephanie 10am	29	30	Apple Blossom Classy Chassis Parade	Apple Blossom Grand Parade



Auxiliary President's Letter

Hi everyone, hope your new year is starting off great. The Auxiliary has started off busy as ever.

On Feb 22, we handed out our bags for the homeless at Locomotive Park. We had 50 bags to give out plus clothing and dog food. We gave out almost half of the bags and most of the clothing.

March is shaping up to be a busy month, also. St Paddy's Dinner on March 15th is our next big event. We hope everyone will come for a good dinner and a good visit with friends.

Illustrating America is our biggest project at the moment. We will be hosting the Kids Klub at the Mall on March 21st. Please bring your children or grandchildren, especially if they like to color or draw. The Illustrating America Art Contest is open to any child, kindergarten thru 8th grade. The entry form is available at the Post or online. Children do not have to enter at the Mall only—entries can be mailed to the Post, and must be received by March 31st for judging. Aside from the chance to win national level prizes, the entrants may receive prize money from us at the local level as well.

Welcome New Auxiliary Members!

Hal Hawley

By request, we are also hosting another Family Pancake Breakfast. Come have pancakes, eggs, and all of the fixings on Saturday, April 4th. Our January breakfast saw lots of new faces from the community and everyone asked when the next one would be happening.

We are looking forward to spring and all of the possibilities it brings. If you want to get involved with any projects, have questions or ideas, please don't hesitate to call me for a chat. 425-223-2172

Shirley Lance, Auxiliary President



CHAPLIN'S CORNER



Brothers and Sisters, if someone in your group does something wrong, you who are spiritual should go to that person and gently help make him right again. But be careful, because you might be tempted to sin, too.

By helping each other with your troubles, you truly obey the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is important when he really is not, he is only fooling himself. Each person should judge his own actions and not compare himself with others. Then he can be proud for what he himself has done. Each person must be responsible for himself. Anyone who is learning the teaching of God should share all the good things he has with his teacher.

Galatians 6:1-6

Larry Severin, Chaplain

TAPS - Remembering those we've recently lost

John Beeman (Navy)

Charles Chittim
(Army Air Corps)

Member Spotlight: Harold Peart



Branch of and Years of Service: Air Force 1951—1954

Harold spent his time in service working on airplane engines, namely P-51s and F-86s.

Two of his favorite military memories come from Clovis Air Force base in New Mexico, and Komake Air Force base in Japan.

Harold's service in Korea and Japan qualified him for VFW membership, and in 2003 he joined Post 3617 here in East Wenatchee. He discovered this community in Nov 2002 when, after moving back to East Wenatchee, he needed a ride to the VA Hospital in Spokane. Someone told him that the VFW drove the VA Van over twice a week.

Since joining our Post, Harold served as Post Commander from 2005-2007, and then as District 7 Commander for 2007-2008. Now, Harold stays involved by coming to our events and supporting other members, veterans who are like himself.

He stays involved to help veterans in whatever way he can, and to teach young children that they have certain freedoms because of what the service members have done and sacrificed for them.

Leadership & Volunteer Opportunities

One of the key things that keeps organizations like the VFW alive is the involvement of its members. Within our Post, there are a number of opportunities for you to volunteer your time and/or skills. You don't need to take on more than you can handle, and most things can be tailored around your availability and level of interest (outside of any deadlines).

Some current opportunities (including but not limited to):

- Kitchen Manager
- Youth Essay Committee & Chair
- Honor Guard / Color Guard
- VA Van Driver
- Membership and Recruiting
- Buddy Poppy Chair
- Safety Committee Chair
- Annual Awards Committee
- House Committee

If you'd like more information about any of these roles, would like to volunteer your time for any of these, or just have questions, please reach out Commander Brad Pieratt, Auxiliary President Shirley Lance, or a member of the committee you'd like to join.

Welcome New Post Members!

Ralph Olson
(Army, Vietnam)

Shawn Armstrong
(Marines, Iraq)

2019 Patriot Award: Home Depot

On February 10, Commander Pieratt presented the 2019 Wenatchee Valley VFW Patriot Award to Team Depot. Receiving this award was store manager Richard Madariaga, who led his team of volunteers on two projects to help local veterans and their families. The Home Depot Foundation donated over \$10,000 in materials and tools to help these families with exterior makeover projects last summer.



In June, Madariaga guided his team of over 20 volunteers to complete a total yard and garden renovation for a Gold Star mother in Cashmere. Within a 3-day window, a new irrigation system, sod, and chain-link fencing was installed around the entire property.

In September, Team Depot was at it again in East Wenatchee when they partnered with our VFW to replace damaged fencing around the property of a Marine Corps veteran and his wife. Removing the old fence that had been blown over during a storm a few years ago, the Home Depot volunteers constructed over 240 feet of sturdy fence that's designed to stand up against strong winds. Additionally, the Team completed some landscaping tasks to remove a huge grape arbor, prune the hedges and trees, weed the garden beds and clean up an overgrown rock wall.

In total, Team Depot provided over 270 hours of volunteer labor on these projects. The homeowners were thrilled with the outcome of both projects and grateful to the entire renovation team for their hard work.



The Patriot Award is an annual award created by Commander Pieratt 8 years ago to pay tribute to our community partners that have improved the lives of and made a positive impact on military, veterans, and their families in the Wenatchee Valley. Congratulations to the entire Home Depot Team!

Editor's note: More volunteer opportunities like this are around the corner. If you want to be involved in community service projects like this, or have ideas for other ways to connect our Post with our Community, let us know.

Fallen Heroes Banners - Volunteers Needed

Spring is right around the corner, which means the Apple Blossom festivities are already in the planning stages. As in the past, our Post is the lead for the Fallen Heroes Banners. These banners feature photos and names men and women from WA that made the ultimate sacrifice during military operations in Iraq & Afghanistan since 2002. We will be organizing and carrying these banners in both the Classy Chassis Parade (Fri, May 1, East Wenatchee) and the Apple Blossom Grand Parade (Sat, May 2, Wenatchee). There are at least 300 banners to be carried, and we'd love to have as many of them included as possible.



If you, your church group, your kids' sports team, or any other volunteers want to help by carrying a banner in one or both parades, please let us know. More information will be released as we get closer. Point of contact for this is Commander Pieratt.



PFC Kellen Biggar Nursing Scholarship Award

The recipient of our \$500 Nursing Scholarship is **Matthew "Mateo" Maestas** (pictured here receiving his award from Commander Pieratt on Feb 5th).

Mateo is a US Navy Veteran and first year nursing student at Wenatchee Valley College.

Our Nursing Scholarship serves to honor the life and sacrifice of Private First Class (PFC) Kellen Biggar of Waterville. After serving in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne as an Army medic, Biggar returned to Spokane Falls Community College to pursue a nursing degree. He was tragically killed in a car accident in 2006.

Note from the Editor

As a reminder, any Post or Auxiliary member may submit information to be shared in this newsletter, as well as to any of our social media outlets. Subjects of interest include Post and Auxiliary members being active in our community (I love seeing photos and stories of past events), VFW or National news related to Veterans, particularly those in our membership demographic, as well as any past or upcoming Post news and events. I like to have submissions before the 25th of each even numbered month.

Questions, comments, concerns, or input can be directed to me via email vfw3617adj@gmail.com or call 509.433.7879 and leave a message. Thanks.

Connie Hill, VFW Post 3617 Adjutant

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